



News From

Maggie Brooks

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

Monday, January 12, 2004

BROOKS ENCOURAGES ADULTS TO CONSIDER FOSTER PARENTING

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks announced a series of informational sessions about foster parenting to begin next week.

"Monroe County is in urgent need of people to open their homes, and their hearts, to children in our community," said Brooks. "These one-hour presentations will provide information to people who may have considered foster parenting in the past but would like to learn more about how the process works."

The following sessions are from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.:

- **January 13, Henrietta:** Henrietta Town Library, 455 Calkins Rd.
- **February 3, Greece:** Greece Public Library, 2 Vince Tofany Blvd.
- **February 4, Fairport:** Perinton Community Center, 1350 Turk Hill Rd.
* Sponsored in part by Perinton Parks and Recreation
- **February 10, Greece:** Greece Olympia High School, 1139 Maiden Ln.
* Sponsored in part by Greece Continuing Education
- **February 24, East Irondequoit:** Eastridge Senior High School, 2350 Ridge Road East
* Sponsored in part by the Irondequoit Youth Bureau
- **March 2, Webster:** Webster Community Center, 985 Ebner Dr.
* Sponsored in part by Webster Parks and Recreation
- **March 9, West Irondequoit:** Dake Junior High School, 350 Cooper Rd.
* Sponsored in part by the Irondequoit Youth Bureau
- **March 30, Brighton:** Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave.
* Sponsored in part by the JCC
- **April 6, Gates:** Gates-Chili High School, 910 Wegman Rd.
* Sponsored in part by Gates-Chili Continuing Education Department

A session exclusively for Laidlaw employees is being offered on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Laidlaw Training Center, 1001 Lexington Avenue.

Foster parents must be 21 years old, can be married or single, can rent or own a home, and most importantly, must want to have a positive impact in the life of a child.

“Foster and adoptive parents provide children with much love and care that is so desperately needed,” said Brooks. “If you have a desire to help children who need a safe home, please call us.”

To reserve space at one of the informational sessions, or to schedule a session in conjunction with your company or organization, call 334-0890.

Monroe County’s foster parent program is called, “Shelter Me With Hope” and is an ongoing recruitment effort of the Department of Human and Health Services. Monroe County has approximately 1,100 children in foster care of all races and ages, from birth to 18 years old. More than 800 of these children are in foster homes within Monroe County, with the balance placed in higher levels of care. Many of these children are returned to their own home when the crisis, which had resulted in their placement into foster care, has passed. Others, unable to return home for a variety of reasons, are adopted, often by their foster parent.

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*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
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